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**Title:**  
Speech opening Modbury Hospital

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1963 69  
SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, OPENING MODBURY HOSPITAL.

16.2.73

MY MINISTERIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUES, YOUR WORSHIP,  
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

IT'S WITH SPECIAL PRIDE AND PLEASURE THAT I SAY I'M VERY HAPPY  
TO BE HERE TODAY FOR THE OPENING OF THE MODBURY HOSPITAL.

THERE ARE MANY AREAS IN WHICH THE DECISIONS AND POLICIES OF A  
STATE GOVERNMENT CAN INFLUENCE PEOPLE'S LIVES FOR BETTER OR WORSE.  
INDEED, THIS IS THE LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS THE MOST  
IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON THE WAY WE LIVE. DECISIONS TAKEN IN AREAS  
SUCH AS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, PERSONAL LIBERTY, URBAN PLANNING  
AND RESOURCE CONTROL HAVE EFFECTS THAT ARE APPARENT FOR YEARS,  
EVEN GENERATIONS.

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BUT IF I HAD TO NOMINATE THE TWO AREAS OF STATE GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY  
WHICH I THINK HAVE THE MOST PROFOUND IMPACT ON THE DAILY LIVES OF  
SOUTH AUSTRALIANS, I WOULD PICK HEALTH AND EDUCATION SERVICES.

THIS IS REFLECTED IN OUR BUDGET BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE THE GREATEST  
SHARE OF THE MONEY GOES AND BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE THE NEED IS MOST  
URGENT.

IT'S AN UNFORTUNATE FACT OF LIFE IN THIS STATE THAT OUR RAPID  
TRANSITION FROM A LARGELY RURAL ECONOMY TO A PREDOMINANTLY  
INDUSTRIAL ONE CAME WITH A PRICE TAG - NOT IN MONEY TERMS BUT IN  
SOCIAL ONES.

RESOURCES WERE COMMITTED TO INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION THAT COULD OTHER-  
WISE HAVE BEEN SPENT ON SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS. THE RESULT WAS THAT  
IN THESE AREAS MUCH OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA LAGGED BEHIND OTHER  
AUSTRALIAN STATES.

BUT, FAR MORE SERIOUS THAN KEEPING UP WITH THE EASTERN STATE JONES', IT MEANT THAT THERE WERE AREAS OF REAL NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY. QUITE BLUNTLY, OUR KIDS WEREN'T GETTING THE SCHOOLING THEY DESERVED AND REQUIRED: OUR SICK WEREN'T GETTING THE TREATMENT THEY SHOULD HAVE HAD.

WE WERE RETURNED WITH A MANDATE TO CHANGE THIS AND A DETERMINATION TO DO SO.

THE RESULTS OF THIS POLICY SWITCH ARE NOW BECOMING APPARENT. WE HAVE MORE SCHOOLS AND BETTER SCHOOLS. WE HAVE MORE HOSPITALS AND BETTER HEALTH SERVICES.

AGAIN THERE HAS BEEN A PRICE TO PAY. ONE OF THE MOST UNPALATABLE DECISIONS I'VE HAD TO TAKE AS TREASURER WAS THAT TO PUT UP TAXES AND CHARGES WHEN A PREVIOUS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REFUSED US THE MONEY WE NEEDED TO EXPAND THESE SERVICES, CLAIMING (ERRONEOUSLY) THAT IT WOULD BE INFLATIONARY.

IT WAS A TOUGH DECISION - INCREASING TAXES IS, AT BEST, AN UNCONVENTIONAL WAY TO POLITICAL POPULARITY - BUT I BELIEVE IT WAS THE RIGHT ONE. IN THE BROADER SENSE OF THE WORD, I BELIEVED WE COULD NO LONGER AFFORD NEGLECT IN THE CLASSROOM OR THE HOSPITAL WARD. AND I THINK MOST SOUTH AUSTRALIANS AGREED WITH ME.

OUR SPENDING ON HEALTH AND HOSPITAL SERVICES IS RUNNING AT A RECORD LEVEL. SINCE 1970 TWELVE MAJOR HOSPITAL PROJECTS HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN WITH A TOTAL COST OF NEARLY \$100 MILLION. BUILDING WORK HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN AT EIGHTY TWO HOSPITALS AND IS IN PROGRESS AT ELEVEN. FOUR NEW HOME CARE SERVICES HAVE BEEN STARTED. NURSES PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE HAVE BEEN IMPROVED.

DOMICILIARY CARE SERVICES HAVE BEEN GREATLY EXTENDED; COMPUTER FACILITIES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED FOR GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS; SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICES HAVE BEEN RAPIDLY EXPANDED. THERE HAVE BEEN MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

WE HAVE COMMITTED MASSIVE SUMS TO COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENT ACROSS SOUTH AUSTRALIA, PUSHING NEW WORKS FORWARD AS FAST AS WE COULD GO. AND THIS IS ONLY PART OF IT, THE FIRST, EMERGENCY PHASE WHICH IS NOW COMING TO AN END.

THE INITIAL JOB WAS TO REPLACE INADEQUATE OR WORN-DOWN FACILITIES AND TO FILL THE MOST OBVIOUS GAPS.

THE OTHER, EQUALLY URGENT, TASK WAS TO FRAME AN OVERALL POLICY FOR HEALTH SERVICES SO THAT WE COULD PROPERLY, AND RESPONSIBLY, PLAN FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS. WE ESTABLISHED AN EXPERT ENQUIRY, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR. JUSTICE BRIGHT, WITH A WIDE-RANGING BRIEF TO MAKE A FULL ASSESSMENT OF OUR REQUIREMENTS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO MEET THEM.

THAT REPORT HAS NOW BEEN PUBLISHED. IT IS THE BEST DOCUMENT OF ITS KIND EVER PREPARED IN AUSTRALIA. THE CHAIRMAN AND HIS FELLOW INVESTIGATORS WERE THOROUGH AND PAINSTAKING IN THEIR WORK AND ALL SOUTH AUSTRALIANS OWE THEM, AND THE PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS WHO MADE DETAILED SUBMISSIONS TO THEM, A VERY GREAT DEBT.

THE BRIGHT REPORT GIVES US A SUPERB OVER-VIEW OF OUR PROBLEMS AND ESTABLISHES GUIDELINES FOR THEIR SOLUTION. WE HAVE NOW FORMED A WORKING PARTY TO CONSULT WITH THE VARIOUS BODIES INVOLVED TO SET OUT A POLICY FRAMEWORK TO ENSURE THAT THE COMMUNITY'S HEALTH SERVICES ARE DEVELOPED IN STEP WITH THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS AND TO SEE THAT A FUTURE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE TO DEAL WITH A HEALTH GAP.

CERTAINLY AS FAR AS THIS GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED THERE WILL BE NO LET UP IN THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT.

APART FROM THE BRIGHT REPORT RECOMMENDATION WE HAVE PLANS WELL ADVANCED FOR FURTHER HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENT AT THE MAJOR NEW FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY, THE NORTHFIELD WARDS OF THE ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL, AT PORT PIRIE, PORT AUGUSTA AND MOUNT GAMBIER.

AND, OF COURSE, THERE WILL BE FURTHER RAPID EXPANSION OF MODBURY ITSELF.

THE JOB ISN'T DONE YET. IT'S ONLY BEGINNING. IN TALKING ABOUT WHAT HAS BEEN DONE, I AM EMPHATICALLY NOT SAYING THAT ALL IS NOW WELL. BUT I DO SAY, WITH PRIDE, THAT IT'S BETTER AND WILL BECOME BETTER STILL.

AND WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET THIS FAR THANKS TO THE LOYALTY AND SUPPORT WE'VE RECEIVED AT ALL LEVELS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

THE HOSPITALS AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS, OUR HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS AND THEIR PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL STAFFS HAVE COPED MAGNIFICENTLY WITH THE DEMANDS WE'VE PUT ON THEM. THAT'S TRUE OF EVERYBODY, BUT I'D LIKE, TODAY, TO PAY A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DR. SHEA FOR HIS TIRELESS ENERGY IN TRANSLATING CABINET DECISIONS INTO HOSPITAL BEDS. HE IS A MEDICAL ADMINISTRATOR OF WORLD CLASS.

HE HAS, OF COURSE, BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE MODBURY PROJECT, AND IN THE YEARS OF PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION IT HAS INVOLVED.

IN 1965 A LABOR GOVERNMENT WAS ELECTED WITH A PLAN FOR TWO NEW HOSPITALS IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA: ONE AT MODBURY AND ONE ASSOCIATED WITH FLINDERS UNIVERSITY. LAND WAS PURCHASED THE SAME YEAR AND IN 1966 BERT SHARD, AS HEALTH MINISTER, INSTRUCTED THAT PLANNING SHOULD START. BUILDING BEGAN IN EARLY 1970 WITH CONSTRUCTION OF THE MAIN BLOCK WHICH WILL PROVIDE 224 BEDS. ABOUT ONE HUNDRED WILL BE BROUGHT INTO USE PROGRESSIVELY OVER THE NEXT

FEW WEEKS AND THE REST LATER THIS YEAR. THERE ARE PLANS FOR EXPANSION TO ABOUT 450 BEDS WITH AN OVERALL COST OF \$11-MILLION.

THE BUILDING FACILITIES, THE VERY UP-TO-DATE EQUIPMENT AND THE STAFF WHO HAVE BEEN RECRUITED FOR IT WILL, I BELIEVE, ENSURE THAT MODBURY PROVIDES AN EXTREMELY HIGH STANDARD OF PATIENT CARE.

ANOTHER PLEASING FEATURE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT IS THAT THERE HAS BEEN A VERY GOOD RESPONSE FROM YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE UP NURSING TRAINING HERE, PROVIDING NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISTRICT.

MODBURY WILL ALSO BE A CENTRE FOR POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND MEDICAL STUDENTS WILL SPEND TIME HERE IN THE AREA OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION.

BUT IT'S MAIN BENEFIT WILL, OF COURSE, BE TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS DISTRICT WHO WILL HAVE ACCESS TO A RANGE AND STANDARD OF TREATMENT NOT AVAILABLE HERE BEFORE. A FULL RANGE OF FACILITIES WILL COME INTO OPERATION OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. EMERGENCY SERVICES WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM EARLY NEXT MONTH; OUTPATIENT, X-RAY AND PATHOLOGY SERVICES WILL BE PHASED IN FROM NEXT MONTH WITH MATERNAL AND ANTE-NATAL CARE FACILITIES AVAILABLE FROM EARLY APRIL.

I'M SURE THE PEOPLE IN TEA TREE GULLY AND THE AREAS AROUND WHO WILL BE SERVED BY MODBURY WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT THEY HAVE A FINE HOSPITAL AND THAT IT'S BEEN MONEY VERY WELL SPENT. I HAVE MUCH PLEASURE IN OFFICIALLY DECLARING IT OPEN.

THANK YOU.